

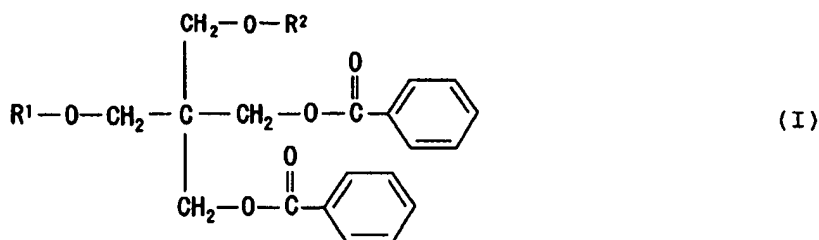
**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A cosmetic composition comprising:

an ester of pentaerythritol and a benzoic acid having the formula (I):



wherein  $\text{R}^1$  and  $\text{R}^2$  independently indicate a hydrogen atom or a linear or branched fatty acid residue having 1 to 24 carbon atoms or a benzoic acid residue, provided that  $\text{R}^1$  and  $\text{R}^2$  are not both benzoic acid residues  $\text{R}^1$  indicates a hydrogen atom or a linear or branched fatty acid residue and  $\text{R}^2$  indicates a linear or branched fatty acid residue having 1 to 24 carbon atoms or a benzoic acid residue, and

a cosmetically acceptable carrier.

2. (Original) A cosmetic composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein  $\text{R}^1$  of the ester of pentaerythritol and benzoic acid of said formula (I) is a 2-ethylhexanoic acid residue and  $\text{R}^2$  is a benzoic acid residue.

3. (Original) A cosmetic composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the amount blended of the ester of pentaerythritol and benzoic acid of formula (I) is 5 to 80% by mass.

4. (Previously Presented) A cosmetic composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the cosmetic composition is a lipstick.
5. (Previously Presented) A cosmetic composition of claim 1, wherein the composition improves gloss of lips after application of the composition to the lips.
6. (New) A cosmetic composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein  $R^2$  is a behenic acid residue.